

CONNECTICUT DISASTER READINESS PROJECT



FEATURING THE

CONNECTICUT DISASTER RELIEF CORPS

ACTION STEPS TOWARDS INCREASED READINESS

The CT Disaster Relief Corps

We've launched a new effort to increase the number of Red Cross-trained volunteers available to respond to a disaster here in Connecticut. This is a substantial drive to make sure the Red Cross in Connecticut has the resources to respond to every conceivable circumstance in our state.

Increased Coordination Between Responders

Beginning with a forum held at the Legislative Office Building and continuing into 2006, officials from the state Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, the Department of Public Safety, representatives from the Red Cross utility companies, health departments and others have begun to discuss ways to increase our level of readiness.

Disaster Relief Infrastructure

The General Assembly has authorized \$300,000 to enable the Red Cross of Connecticut to purchase much-needed emergency response vehicles. I am committed to working to ensure final approval by the State Bond Commission.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

You can help us achieve our goal of doubling the number of Red Cross-trained relief volunteers.

Currently the Red Cross has identified and trained approximately 10,000 volunteers who are ready to respond to disaster relief efforts in Connecticut. Our goal is to increase that number to 20,000.

The Red Cross needs individuals to serve in a variety of functions including: volunteer staffing, health services, client casework, feeding, transportation, facilities supply, and sheltering.

Red Cross chapters in Connecticut currently have training sessions set up to qualify volunteers.

People interested in becoming a Red Cross disaster relief worker can get more information by visiting the Red Cross Web site www.ctredcross.org or by calling their local chapter.



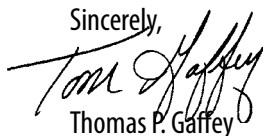
**American
Red Cross**

Dear Friends,

The very first responsibility of government is to protect its citizens.

Recent events have reminded us that careful planning is required to be prepared for every circumstance. The massive hurricanes that hit the gulf and southeastern states and the flooding in Connecticut caused by torrential rains in October pointed to the necessity for disaster readiness. Additionally, we must stand ready to respond to more remote threats such as the possibility of a pandemic of avian flu or man-made disasters rooted in terrorist activity.

Along with our Senate leader Don Williams, I have taken a lead role in initiating serious efforts to increase our state's level of preparedness and to better equip the American Red Cross and other organizations to help. This mailing is intended to make you aware of the efforts already underway. I welcome your thoughts as we proceed and hope you will help us achieve our goal.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Gaffey



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